

CLASSIFICATION

TO : Chief, EE

DATE: 9 February 1956

FROM : Chief of Base, Hamburg

INFO: COS, FOB, MOB, POB

SUBJECT: common—Operational

~~SECRET~~—Baltic Nationals Residing in Germany

SYNOPSIS: This memorandum summarizes our general knowledge concerning Baltic nationals residing in Germany. The information was collected from consular files, German police headquarters in Hamburg, publications of the German-Baltic association, and from talks with members of the society resulting from [] visit to Lueneburg on 27 January 1956. On this date the "Baltischen Gesellschaft in Deutschland" held their semi-annual Arbeitstagung at the Ost-Akademie in Lueneburg.

1. At present there are ca. 25,500 Baltic nationals and approximately 40,000 Germans from the Baltic area living in West Germany (12,000 Latvians, 4,000 Estonians and 7,500 Lithuanians). Approximately 100,000 Balts have emigrated since 1945, about one-half to the United States. As Germany is considered the host country, there is not nearly as much bickering between the Balts and the Germans from the Baltic areas as for example there is in Sweden. However, the organizations here in West Germany are almost all parallel to each other and present a very confused picture.

2. There appear to be only two organizations among the Balts representing their nationals in West Germany:

A. Latvian Central Committee in West Germany

Headquarters: Stuttgart
Chairman: Col. V. JANUMS

B. Lithuanian Central Committee in West Germany

Headquarters: Augsburg
Chairman: P. ZUNDE

(The principal figure in Europe in the Latvian emigration appears to be Minister Robert LIEPINS of Ludwigsburg. The principal figure in the Estonian emigration appears to be the former Minister for Foreign Affairs in Estonia, Karel SELTER of Berne. For the Lithuanians, there is a Commissioner of the Executive Council for the Liberation of Lithuania, Dr. Petras KARVELIS located in Reutlingen bei Tuebingen.)

It is likely that the Estonians, being in such a minority, do not have a Central Committee for West Germany.

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9. We have become interested in these groups through the large number of traces desired on Balts from other bases and headquarters (see attachment B). For this reason we talked to [] (mentioned above) to see what groups or personalities might be of use. He said that there was no formal grouping of the Balts in Hamburg or the surrounding area and that information concerning Balts could best be obtained from their group headquarters. For example, for information on Latvians in Hamburg, one should query Augsburg.

10. In January 1955, a Rev. Vaelevas SARKA was recommended to us as being a good source of information on Balts in this area (ECGA-52). Subsequently we received EGPA-6398, August 1955, indicating that [] was in contact with him. We expressed interest in this in ECGA-319 (August 1955) but have had no answer. We should like to contact him to complete our information on Baltic activity here. We can do so at the present time using consular cover and the recent Tagung in Lueneburg as an excuse.

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